

In 1628, William Harvey published *Exercitatio Anatomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis in Animalibus* and propounded a theory that conflicted with the reigning theories surrounding the circulatory system published by Galen in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE. In this project, I hope to expand our understanding of the development of our knowledge about the circulatory system. I am completing a comparative analysis of the major differences between the works of Harvey and Galen with the hope of understanding why Galen's theories were the leading theories for such an extended period of time and how Harvey's approach and experimentation changed our understanding of the entire circulatory system. In order to completely understand how their conclusions concerning the circulatory system differed, I am also investigating the how use of dissections and vivisections of the human body and cultural beliefs, in each of their respective time periods, played a role in their discoveries.